

TYGART RIVER. The Tygart River, which forms the principal drainage basin of Barbour-County, a large portion of Upshur and Randolph Counties, has its source about one/mile west of Spruce in Pocahontas County with an elevation of approximately 4,000 feet. After flowing westwardly for two miles it enters Randolph County, where it flows in a general northward direction across Randolph, Barbour, and Taylor Counties to join the West Fork at Fairmont, Marion County to form the Monongahela; its length in Pocahontas County <sup>is</sup> 2.2 miles with a drainage area of less than three square miles and has a total fall of 1,075 feet, with a rate of fall per mile of 488.6 feet.

The Tygart River was so named from David Tygart, who came to the Tygart-River Valley in the 1750s; left the valley when the family of Files and others were murdered by the Indians.

David Tygart and a Mr Files settled near each other, on an Eastern Branch of Monongahela, since known as Tygarts Valley River. Files settled at the mouth of a Creek where Beverly, the former county seat of Randolph County, now stands, and Tygart a few miles higher up the river. ~~They~~ had not been there a great while ✓ when they concluded that it was not safe, and determined to go back to nearer the border settlements; but before they found it convenient to do so, the family of Files was attacked by the Indians, and every member killed, except one son, who was absent from the house, but within hearing and sight of the terrible massacre. He fled to the house of Tygart, and the timely warning given by him enabled the David Tygart family to escape and leave the country. This event occurred some time in the 1750s;

## ELK RIVER;-

Elk River, is of minor importance to Pocahontas County, but goes to the County which is the birth place of Rivers for its source; it is one of the most important streams of West Virginia; It has its source in the Old Field Fork of Elk  $5\frac{1}{2}$  miles North of Marlinton with an elevation of 3500 feet . It flows Northward for 13.6 miles in Pocahontas County, and across the southern extension of Randolph County ,; Near the Randolph- Webster County Line it veers sharply to a course South West, to four miles west of Webster Springs, where it <sup>turns</sup> turns North West, and so continues until it crosses the Webster- Braxton County line near Centralia . From here it flows to the West to Sutton , where it again turns to to the South- West and empties in to the Great Kanawaha River at Charleston

Including its tributaries, of Dry Fork , Old Field Fork, and Big Spring Fork, it has a drainage area in Pocahontas County of 75.64 square miles.

Its principal branches in Pocahontas County is Dry Fork 5.1 miles long, Big Spring Fork, 9 miles long, and Old Field Fork, 8.8 miles long.

Their branches are; Black Hole Run, Douglas Fork, Big Run, Mill Creek, Run, Cup Run, Slaty Fork, Mill Run, and Crooked Fork .

The name of Elk River first originate first with the Indians who called it ~~it~~ "Tiskelwah", which meant " River of Fat Elk " The Deleware called it To-que-min-cepe or "Walnut River."

The Old Field Fork of Elk; received its name from the Fact that that the Indians had cleared about two acres of land on the Branch and was the encampment grounds of the the Indians; One of the most frequent Indian Trails seemed to have been from Clover Lick Creek , up the Creek to Thomas Spring; thence over the mountain, crossing the notch near Clark Riders Farm; thence down by James Gibson, s to Elk. Thence a mile farther down was the encampment grounds where about two acres of land had cleared, and this was the OLD FIELD , that gave this branch of Elk its name; And is where Joseph Hannah the first Settler, first planted a crop of Corn..

WILLIAMS RIVER :-

Williams River heads  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles west of Marlinton on the west side of Day and Swago Mountains with an elevation 3,890 feet. It flows northward, cutting a deep precipitous gorge along the east side of Black Mountain, to the mouth of Laurel Creek where it turns north-westward, then continues its gorge like valley into Webster County with an elevation of 2753 feet at the County line, and empties into Gauley River three miles south east of Cowen with an elevation of 2155 feet, making a total fall of 1735 feet from its source to its mouth. Its length is 15.6 miles in Pocahontas County and 17.6 miles in Webster County, or a total of 33.2 miles.

Its drainage area is 130.63 square miles, most of which was covered by a dense and mostly forest growth until the last few years. Throughout its entire length it is a comparatively swift and shallow stream, with only occasional small stretches of bottom land. Other than the temporary population of Lumbermen, there are very few families living on its waters. Its principal tributaries in Pocahontas County, are Laurel Creek, Little Laurel Creek, Sugar Creek, Tea Creek, Kins Creek, and Bannock Shoals Run.

Tea Creek, is 5.5 miles long with a total fall of 1300 feet, with a rate of fall per mile of 236.3 feet, and has a drainage area basin of 11.50 square miles;

It received its name from the fact that the water of Tea Creek, is the color of weak Tea. The idea ~~was~~ for years was that this color was from leaves and roots of the trees - particularly spruce and hemlock. The Geologist now tells us the sulphur in the coal deposits is chemical which gives color to the water.

The Middle Fork of the Williams River; The Middle Fork has its source in several small branches on the west side of The Black Mountain one of which has an elevation of 4290 feet. The main branch flows in a northwest direction into Webster County to join Williams River at the Three Forks of the Williams River with an elevation of 2350 feet, making a total fall of 1940 feet or at the rate of 192.1 feet per mile. It has a drainage area 27.27 square miles, all of which is covered with a dense forest growth, but now mostly cut over, with only a few

families living on its watershed. Its tributaries are Little Beechy Run, Beechy Run, Laurley Branch, Hell For Certain Branch, Coal Run, and McClintoc Run. Its total length is 10.1 miles long.

Many different traditions are advanced as to who was the rightful name - sake of the Williams River; It bears date of Prior 1795 There is a tradition that it was named after William Eweing, known as Swago Bill, he owned lands on Williams River,; It has been said that when he moved to Ohio in the year of 1810 he sold his Williams River holdings for a rifle gun, and a certain amount of "cut Money" This William Eweing was a soldier of the Revolution.

( Some folks are of the opinion that The Williams River was named for William Lewis Lovely, who at one time of a very early date, had large Land Grants, on the waters of Williams River )

#### GAULEY RIVER

CRANBERRY RIVER:- Cranberry River heads 7 miles west of Marlinton at the union of Cranberry and Black Mountains of the Ewe Range. It has a rapid fall from its source to the Cranberry Glades, where it flows slow and slugishly across the Glades for some two miles. It continues north westward into Webster County crossing the county line at an elevation of 2,985 feet, and flows in the same general course for 10 miles, where it <sup>a</sup>wings abruptly to the south west, and crosses into Nicholas County to join Gauley River at Cranberry Station. It has a total length of 32.35 miles with a fall of 2,035 feet of at the rate of 62.9 feet per mile. It has a drainage area 74.08 square miles, The greater part of its water shed is covered with forest, the greater part of which has been cut over in recent years.

Except at Cranberry Glades the stream is swift and shallow. Its principal tributaries in Pocahontas County, are Tumbling Rock Run, North Fork, and Charles Creek.